

Date: 16th July 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012928/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/07/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If any information is unavailable, exempt, or beyond time/cost limits, please disregard these and provide the rest.

- 1. The total number of car thefts reported in all car parks (public and private) within your police force area for the last five calendar years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023).***
- 2. The total number of car thefts reported in airport car parks within your police force area for the last five calendar years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023), if applicable. This includes any private and public car parks that are predominantly used for long-stay and short-stay airport parking.***
- 3. The total number of car thefts reported in train station car parks within your police force area for the last five calendar years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023), if applicable. This includes any private and public car parks that are predominantly used for train station parking.***
- 4. If possible, a breakdown of the make and model of all car thefts for the three above requests for the last five calendar years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023).***

When referring to car theft, I mean offences of taking a motor vehicle without consent under Section 12 of the Theft Act 1968 (outlined here:

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cps.gov.uk%2Flegal-guidance%2Ftheft-act-offences%23%3A~%3Atext%3DSection%252012&data=05%7C02%7Cfreedomofinformation%40gmp.police.uk%7C919d6e72faef49e36ab608dca24d9f5d%7Cdc8a542c40d46ab8f73e6023f45c7c5%7C0%7C0%7C638563702664672332%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CB>

[yiKEIazLvYAUhhMEZMX9JNVukrrA7dKUq14nGoF5U%3D&reserved=0\(1\)%20TA%201968,the%20taking%20of%20pedal%20cycles\).](#)

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To determine which record relates to a 'car theft' would require a manual review of all vehicle crimes. A search of GMPs records shows over 20,000 records which would require a manual review. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record to determine if the record relates to a car theft alone would take in excess of 1,666 hours.

Therefore as per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a much shorter time period or a reduction in the volume of questions asked. The resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Vehicle crime data is published on the GMP website. This data includes theft of a motor vehicle.

Please see the following link:

[Neighbourhood crime | Greater Manchester Police \(gmp.police.uk\)](#)